Identification of non-viable Sectors

1398 SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IA is likely to raise fares in non-viable sectors;

(b) if so, what are the details of the non-viable sectors so identified; and

(c) what is the logic behind raising fares in these sectors which are already non-viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has raised its domestic rupee fares on all sectors with effect from 25-07-1994.

Decision to Acuirt Mediujn Capacity Long-Range Air Crafts by A.I.

1399. HRI SURESH KALMADI:
-SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India have decided to acquire more medium capacity long-range air crafts in a bid to augment its fleet; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the proposed augmentation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

(a) and (b) Air India has plans to induct medium capacity long-range aircraft (MCLR) into its fleet from 1997-98 onwards. Various types of MCLR aircraft will be evaluated by Air India. Actual decision to purchase the aircraft will, however depend on techno-economic evaluation and availability of traffic rights on the routes where the aircraft would be operated.

Plan to Attract Foreign Tourisst in Andhra Pradesh

1400. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been a marked increase to the extent of 20% in the arrival of foreign tourists in the first six months of this year;

(b) whether any special efforts are proposed to make Andhra Pradesh a possible destination for foreign tourists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The foreign tourist arrivals during the period from January to June 1994 registered an increase of 19.5% as compared to the arrivals during the same period of the previous year.

(b) and (c) The development of tourism in any particular state is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance in respect of specified schemes on the basis of proposals received from them. The Central Department of Tourism sanctioned 11 projects amounting to Rs. 114.28 lakhs for the improvement of tourism infrastructure in the State during 1993-94. The tourist circuit Hyderabad Nagar-

junasagar-Tirupati has also been identified for intensive development under the National Action Plan for Tourism.

Decongestion of Trunk Routes

1401. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director-General of Civil Aviation is dragging its feet on the air taxi Operators' (ATC) proposal for staggering flights in a bid to decongest the trunk routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the broad features of the proposed staggering plan; and

(d) the reaction of the DGCA|his Ministry thereto and how it is ultimately proposed to tackle the situation particularly during the peak hours on the Bombay-Delhi trunk route and balk down the constant fear of mid-air collision presently gripping the frequent air passengers on this busy route?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The staggering of flights is planned to ensure:

(i) Availability of warking bays to aircraft.

(ii) Availability of adequate passenger terminal capacity and baggage conveyor blts.

(iii) Air Traffic control to handle the permitted flights.

(d) Approval of operating schedule of the operators after taking into account the above aspects will help in maintaining standard separation between the aircraft flying on any route in accordance with the provisions laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Decline in I passengers

1402. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that volume of pasengers travelling by Indian Airlines has declined in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government would like to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATOIN AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The passenger carriage by Indian Airlines has declined recently, mainly due to the loss of market to ATOs. Following are the major steps taken to improve the performance of Indian Airlines:—

(i) Product Improvements

— Improvement in service both on ground and on board.

— Improvtment In passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.

— Introduction of Business Class in A-300 aicrraft.

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies

— Incentives|concessions introduced for customers and agents.

— Setting up of Sales Forces to generate more business.

(iii) Organisational Improvements

— Changes in the organisationa structure and Systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.